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USDA ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR 1890 LAND—GRANT INSTITUTIONS

ATLANTA, Sept. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is awarding nearly \$5.3 million to the 17 historically black land-grant institutions through a new 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program.

The grants will be used to fund 29 research and teaching projects ranging from diet and heart disease of rural blacks, food biotechnology and water quality to student recruitment and retention, a mobile computer laboratory and an international agriculture degree program.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jack C. Parnell said the grants are extremely important in USDA's efforts to advance the teaching and research capacity of the 1890 land-grant colleges and universities.

"It reflects USDA's commitment to encouraging more minorities to prepare for careers as food and agricultural scientists and professionals," he said.

The competitive grants provide support for teaching and research projects at the colleges and universities to address high priority national needs. They encourage matching support from non-federal sources and also require cooperation with at least one USDA agency in developing a proposal and carrying out a project. The 130 proposals submitted this year by applicant institutions reflected a commitment of almost \$10 million in matching funds from state and private sources.

The program is administered by the Office of Higher Education Programs in USDA's Cooperative State Research Service, Parnell said. It is a direct result of recommendations from a joint USDA/1890 Task Force initiated in 1988 to strengthen ties between USDA, the 1890 land-grant institutions and other historically black colleges and universities.

Dr. Patrick Jordan, CSRS administrator, said there is high enthusiasm about the program's success and anticipates increased support next year for the program.

The grant recipients are:

| Institution Name | Research Funds Awarded | Teaching Funds Awarded |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alabama A&M Univ. | \$340,047 | \$173,805 |
| Florida A&M Univ. | 329,154 | 348,027 |
| Fort Valley State College, Ga. | 202,977 | 157,907 |
| Kentucky State Univ. | 366,523 | 174,015 |
| Lincoln Univ., Mo. | 158,575 | 79,394 |
| Univ. of Maryland-Eastern Shore | 597,809 | 173,916 |
| North Carolina A&T State Univ. | 154,154 | — |
| Prairie View A&M Univ., Texas | 177,162 | — |
| Southern Univ and A&M College, La. | 497,356 | — |
| Tennessee State Univ. | 338,900 | — |
| Tuskegee Univ., Ala. | 281,723 | — |
| Univ. of Arkansas-Pine Bluff | — | 347,086 |
| South Carolina State College | — | 168,570 |

Four planning grants of \$50,000 each have been awarded to Langston University, Oklahoma; Delaware State University; Virginia State University and Alcorn State University; Mississippi, for teaching and research projects.

Reginald McNeill (202) 447-4026

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OPENS OIL SPILL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER IN ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Sept. 27—On behalf of the Federal Trustees, Alan Raul, general counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, today opened the Oil Spill Public Information Center here to provide public access to scientific data and other information related to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

USDA, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are the federal agencies who serve as trustees for natural resources damaged in the spill. The Federal Trustees, together with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard, are currently preparing and submitting oil-spill-related documents to the center.

“The Federal Trustees are determined to involve the public as extensively as possible in working with us, EPA and the State of Alaska to develop an effective restoration program for the injured natural resources in Prince William Sound. We are placing oil spill related information in the Anchorage Center so that interested groups and individuals can participate meaningfully in our restoration proposals. Restoration of Prince William Sound is the Federal Trustees’ top priority, and we are committed to developing a restoration plan with the benefit of full public comment,” Raul said.

“We are hopeful that the State of Alaska and Exxon will follow the lead of the Federal Trustees and also make their documents public by placing them in the Center. The damage assessment and restoration process must involve the public. By inaugurating the Center today, the federal government is demonstrating its commitment to an open process,” Raul said.

In addition to scientific data, the collection will include basic reference materials, reports, maps, photographs, slides, video tapes, audio tapes, and newspaper clippings. The U.S. Department of Justice is managing the Center on behalf of the Federal Trustees. The Center will be staffed by professional librarians who will provide reference services, referral services to other libraries, and assistance to users in locating items in the collection. Individuals outside the Anchorage area will be able to make information requests by telephone, facsimile or mail.

The Center is located on the first floor of the Simpson Building, 645 G Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The telephone numbers for the Center are (907) 278-8008, (800) 478-7745 (toll-free, within Alaska), and (800) 283-7745 (toll-free, outside Alaska); the facsimile number is (907) 276-7818.

The Federal Trustees are: the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of NOAA, acting for the Secretary of Commerce. These federal trusteeship responsibilities derive, respectively, from injuries to USDA Forest Service land (the Chugach National Forest), USDI National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges (including

the Kenai Fjords National Park), and the aquatic environment of Prince William Sound (NOAA is the standing federal trustee for the nation's marine resources). The State of Alaska is a trustee for injured natural resources under its jurisdiction. The three Federal Trustees are working with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Alaska to assess and restore injuries to natural resources caused by the March 24, 1989, Exxon Valdez tanker accident.

Al Maruggi (202) 447-5654

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1990-CROP SOYBEAN LOAN RATE \$4.50 PER BUSHEL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today issued a final announcement that the price support loan and purchase level for 1990-crop soybeans is \$4.50 per bushel.

The level is the same as in the preliminary announcement issued Aug. 28.

All producers of 1990-crop soybeans will be eligible for price support loans and purchases.

The loan and purchase level of \$4.50 per bushel is based upon a formula prescribed by statute. The statute also provides discretionary authority to reduce the level up to an additional five percent, but not below \$4.50 per bushel, to maintain competitiveness.

Soybeans are not eligible for the farmer-owned reserve program or for storage payments.

A regulatory impact analysis on the 1990 soybean program may be obtained from: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3741-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

For additional information, contact: Orville Overboe (202) 447-4418.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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USDA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC LAW 480 COMMODITY AVAILABILITY FOR FISCAL 1991

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the types of agricultural commodities that will be available for allocation under the Food for Peace Program (Public Law 480) during fiscal 1991.

Those commodities are wheat and wheat products, rice and rice products, feed grains, soybean meal, dry edible beans, dry edible peas, lentils, edible vegetable oil (soybean oil, cottonseed oil, and sunflower seed oil), soy food products, edible and inedible tallow, and solid wood products.

Yeutter said the large 1990 wheat crop makes available an abundant supply of wheat for P.L.480 allocations.

Under P.L 480, U.S. agricultural commodities are donated or sold on favorable terms to foreign governments to meet humanitarian needs and assist in economic development.

The total sales value of commodities exported under the program determined annually by Congress, which will make that determination for fiscal 1991 in the near future.

The type of commodities to be made available are determined by the secretary of agriculture under criteria in Section 401(a) of the P.L. 480 legislation. In making these determinations, Section 401(a) requires the secretary to take into account U.S. productive capacity, domestic supplies and requirements, farm and consumer price levels, commercial exports, adequate carryover, and urgent needs for humanitarian assistance to other countries.

Additional information is available from Mary Chambliss, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 447-3573.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 447-3448

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APPOINTMENTS MADE TO U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced eight new appointments and eight reappointments to the U.S. National Arboretum Advisory Council for two-year terms.

The council serves as consultants to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the U.S. National Arboretum, a 444-acre world class center for research and education on landscape plants. The arboretum, located in Washington D.C., is part of the Agricultural Research Service, USDA's chief research agency.

"The value of the National Arboretum reaches far beyond providing plants of beauty. Each year we learn more about the value of genetic diversity within our plant resources and the Arboretum helps us gain new knowledge of how to manage that diversity," Secretary Yeutter said.

Newly appointed Advisory Council members are: William E. Barrick, Ida Cason Gallaway Foundation, Pine Mountain, Ga.; Francis Ching, Arboreta & Botanic Gardens, County of Los Angeles, Arcadia, Calif.; Paul Ecke, Paul Ecke Poinsettias, Encinitas, Calif.; Susan Herbert, Herbert & Boghosian, Inc., West Simsbury, Conn.; Lynden B. Miller, New York, N.Y.; Elizabeth Rea, McLean, Va.; Richard A. Schroeder, Schroeder's Nursery, Inc., Grayslake, Ill.; and H.B.1 Tukey, Jr., University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

Reappointed were: Anna Caroline Ball, Ball Seed Co., Glen Ellyn, Ill.; William Flemmer, III, Princeton Nurseries, Princeton, N.J.; Carolyn Marsh Lindsay, Carolyn Marsh Lindsay Assoc., Rochester, N.Y.; Harold William Merritt, Technical International, Fort Washington, Md.; George Oki, Oki Nursery, Sacramento, Calif.; Jane N. Scarff, Scarff's Nursery, Inc., New Carlisle, Ohio; Andre Viette, Andre Viette Nurseries, Fishersville, Va., and Conrad J. Weiser, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

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YEUTTER APPOINTS NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of 20 members and two alternate members to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Advisory Council. The council will participate in the development of a comprehensive plan for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and is scheduled to meet Oct. 5 and 6 in Chinook, Mont., to begin its work.

The trail was used by the Nez Perce people as they were pursued by the U.S. Army in 1877, and has important historical significance throughout the West. Called the Nee-Me-Poo (meaning "The People") Trail in Native American language, the route extends approximately 1,170 miles from Wallowa, Ore., to the Bear's Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Mont. It crosses the states of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Congress designated the Nez Perce Trail as a National Historic Trail in 1986, and empowered the secretary of agriculture to establish an advisory council to advise on the development and management of the trail.

The trail will be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (lead agency), and the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The advisory council is composed of representatives of federal and state agencies, Nez Perce tribal members, and private citizens who are recognized authorities on the history of the trail.

Federal representatives appointed to the council are: John Mumma, Forest Service; Loraine Mintzmyer, National Park Service (alternate Eddie L. Lopez); and Burt Williams, Bureau of Land Management.

State representatives appointed to the council are: Lyla Rae Randolph, Wyoming; Charles Coate, Oregon; George B. Hatley, Idaho; and Don Hyypa, Montana.

Nez Perce Tribe representatives appointed to the council are Sandi McFarland and Soy Redthunder (Joe Redthunder, alternate).

Private sector representatives appointed to the council are: Richard L. Adams, Idaho school teacher; Leroy Anderson, Blaine County, Mont., Museum Board; Stuart Conner, Montana State Historical Board; Stanlynn Daugherty, representing the outfitter industry; Harry W. Fritz, University of Montana history professor; Alvin M. Josephy Jr., representing the historical research community; Robert E. Lamely, Champion International

Corp., representing the timber industry; Dr. Harrison Lane, Northern Montana College history professor; Lawrence J. Sommers, Montana State Historical Society; Dr. Merle Wells, Idaho Historical Society; and Cheryl Wilfong, representing the historical research community.

Jim Dolan (406) 329-3582

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USDA REVISES STANDARDS FOR DRIED WHEY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow salty whey—the moisture removed from cheese curd as a result of salting—to be covered by U.S. whey standards effective today. The standards will apply to the whey after its salt has been removed.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said in the past only whey originating as saltless was eligible for U.S. grading. That whey results from the initial coagulation of milk protein into cheese curd at the start of cheesemaking, and it is the major source of whey for processing.

The proponent of the revision, the American Dairy Products Institute, says extending the standards to whey resulting from salting the curd is appropriate because membrane technology using a process of osmosis can economically remove the salt from the whey.

In the past, the salty whey, which represents a small fraction of the total amount of whey produced in cheesemaking, was discarded because it is so salty, Haley said. The improved price of whey and increased whey disposal costs have made application of the process practical. The desalinated whey then can be sold as sweet whey.

The amendment authorizes the AMS administrator to approve desalination methods of an applicant seeking USDA approval of the whey-handling facilities. Collection of this whey must meet certain sanitary requirements, Haley said.

Dried and condensed whey are significant sources of vitamins and protein in human nutrition, and are also used to some extent in animal feed, he said.

The amendment to the whey standards will appear as a final rule in today's Federal Register. Copies are available from the Director, Dairy

Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 447-4392.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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CCC INTEREST RATE FOR OCTOBER 7-7/8 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Commodity Loans disbursed in October by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 7-7/8 interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 7-7/8 percent rate is up from September's 7-3/4 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in October.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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NORTH AMERICAN BONSAI COLLECTION AND PAVILION DEDICATED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—U.S. Department of Agriculture officials today dedicated the North American bonsai collection and pavilion at the U.S. National Arboretum here.

Fifty-six trees, from 50 donors in 15 states, form the nucleus of the collection, which is part of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Trees from bonsai artists in Mexico and Canada will be added in the future.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture is pleased to accept this North American collection as part of the growing national bonsai complex here at the arboretum," said Charles Hess, assistant secretary of agriculture for science and education.

"The collection represents an important step in the development of the arboretum as a focal point for the study and enjoyment of bonsai in the United States," he said. "And it displays how the traditions of bonsai have flourished in North America."

The North American collection will be housed in a pavilion honoring John Y. Naka at the arboretum. The arboretum, part of USDA's

Agricultural Research Service, is a 444-acre world-class center for research on woody landscape plants.

Naka, a native of Fort Lupton, Colo., is a world master of the art of bonsai. He donated one of his finest creations—a grouping of 11 Chinese junipers called Goshin or “protector of the spirit”—as the first bonsai of the North American collection.

“His achievements in promoting friendship and understanding through the artistry of bonsai are legend,” said arboretum director H. Marc Cathey. “It is appropriate that the first of America’s bonsai masters be honored and that a world-class museum for North American bonsai be created.”

The National Bonsai Foundation raised the funds and gathered the trees entirely from private sources.

“We believe this marks the coming of age of American bonsai,” said foundation president Frederic L. Ballard. “And the collection offers an ideal opportunity to explain the artistic aspects of bonsai to a national and international audience.”

The North American collection was originally inspired by a gift of bonsai from Japan in honor of the U.S. bicentennial.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

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FIRST JOINT U.S.-SOVIET BIOLOGICAL CONTROL EXPLORATION BEGINS TODAY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The first joint U.S.-Soviet exploration for biological pest controls begins today as four scientists hunt natural enemies of a beetle that causes trouble in both countries.

The scientists will conduct their research in Brazil and will search for parasites, predators and diseases that could help American and Soviet farmers control the Colorado potato beetle without chemicals.

Although the beetle itself is not a resident of Brazil, 200 closely related species of insects are. The scientists will hunt for enemies of those relatives, seeking some that would attack the potato beetle too.

The research is being undertaken by U.S. Department of Agriculture entomologists Robert F.W. Schroder, Michael M. Athanas and Benjamin W. Puttler.

They will be joined in Brazil by entomologist Ivan Kiriak of the All Union Institute for Biological Methods of Plant Protection in Kishinev, Moldavia. It is the first time insect scientists from the United States and the Soviet Union will explore together in another country for a pest of both nations.

"We are really excited about this," said Schroder, who is with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "It's something we've been trying to do for many years and, with our improved scientific relationship with the Soviets, it is now a reality."

The Colorado potato beetle eats potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant in both the United States and the Soviet Union. "It's the single most important pest of potatoes in both countries," he said.

It costs farmers here \$150-200 million a year in losses and insecticides. "This is a problem that's only getting worse. It's not going to go away," Schroder said.

Schroder said the team will take their sweep nets, collecting live potential beetle enemies along roadsides, into the bush and forested areas—"wherever our guide takes us."

Once they are returned to the United States, the organisms will be quarantined to ensure that they do not attack beneficial insects, he stressed.

The trip is part of the U.S.-Brazil Technological Exchange Program, under which a Brazilian scientist currently studies the potato beetle's genetics at the Insect Biocontrol Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., where Schroder and Athanas work. Puttler retired recently from ARS' Biological Control of Insects Laboratory in Columbia, Mo.

ARS scientists and Soviet counterparts have freely exchanged biological control agents. Soviet scientists were here in August to find natural enemies of our native ragweed, which is not a pest in the U.S. And ARS scientists travelled to the U.S.S.R. to collect enemies of the Russian wheat aphid and other U.S. pests that do not bother Soviet farmers.

Jessica Morrison Silva (301) 344-3927

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FOURTH QUARTER MEAT IMPORT ESTIMATE BELOW 1990 TRIGGER LEVEL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced that the fourth-quarter estimate of U.S. meat imports for calendar year 1990 is below the level that would require quotas or restraints on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979.

Crowder said that based on U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of available supplies and marketing plans by major meat exporters, imports of beef and other meats subject to the act during 1990 should total 1,285 million pounds—about 80 million pounds below the 1990 trigger level of 1,366.2 million pounds. As a result, at this time import restrictions are not required for 1990.

The import estimate has been raised by 125 million pounds over the USDA's July estimate. Crowder said a smaller-than-usual U.S. supply of cutter grade beef, due to reduced slaughterings, coupled with increased Australian beef production and delays in Japanese purchases of Australian beef, have led to a greater-than-anticipated flow of meat to the U.S. market.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items—primarily beef and veal—if the USDA quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level determined by formula in the act. The table below summarizes monthly imports of meat subject to the act from January 1987 through August 1990.

Table on next page.

Imports of Meat Subject to the Meat Import Act

| | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 ¹ | 1990 ¹ |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | <i>millions of pounds</i> | | | |
| January | 44.4 | 135.6 | 74.5 | 90.7 |
| February | 138.2 | 112.3 | 80.3 | 97.1 |
| March | 121.5 | 144.8 | 88.5 | 115.4 |
| April | 123.3 | 146.6 | 97.1 | 118.0 |
| May | 126.1 | 134.7 | 104.0 | 76.9 |
| June | 135.4 | 116.8 | 103.4 | 100.8 |
| July | 144.9 | 178.6 | 114.6 | 121.3 |
| August | 174.0 | 123.4 | 111.0 | 122.2 |
| September | 121.1 | 111.7 | 90.2 | |
| October | 190.7 | 118.7 | 83.6 | |
| November | 86.6 | 92.5 | 57.4 | |
| December | 53.5 | 105.5 | 136.7 | |
| Total ² | 1,459.7 | 1,521.3 | 1,141.2 | 1,285.0 ³ |

¹Imports from Canada are excluded as a result of the signing of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Implementation Act of 1988.

²Totals may not add due to rounding.

³1990 4th quarter estimate.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1990-CROP PRICE SUPPORT LOAN RATES FOR SUGAR BEETS AND CANE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that the national (weighted average) price support loan rates for the 1990 crop of domestically grown sugarcane and sugar beets will be 18 cents per pound for raw cane sugar and 21.93 cents per pound for refined beet sugar.

These loan rates have been adjusted to reflect the processing location of the sugar offered as collateral for a price support loan.

The processing regions and applicable 1990 crop regional loan rates for refined beet sugar are:

| Region number and description | Cents per pound of refined sugar |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Michigan and Ohio | 22.80 |
| 2. Minnesota and the eastern half of N. Dakota | 22.06 |
| 3. NE quarter of Colorado; Nebraska; and SE quarter of Wyoming | 21.65 |
| 4. Texas | 22.40 |
| 5. Montana and NE quarter of Wyoming and western half of N. Dakota | 21.44 |
| 6. That part of Idaho E. of the eastern boundary of Owyhee County and this boundary extended north | 21.27 |
| 7. That part of Idaho W. of the eastern boundary of Owyhee County and this boundary extended north; Oregon | 21.27 |
| 8. California | 22.21 |

The processing regions and applicable 1990 regional crop loan rates for cane sugar, raw value, are as follows, except for sugar processed in Hawaii or Puerto Rico but placed under loan on the U.S. mainland, the applicable loan rate shall be 17.75 cents per pound:

| Region | Cents per pound, raw sugar value |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Florida | 17.95 |
| Louisiana | 18.44 |
| Texas | 18.25 |
| Hawaii | 17.66 |
| Puerto Rico | 18.20 |

The price support level is the minimum amount that must be paid to growers by processors participating in the price support loan program. Based on the established regional loan rates, the minimum price support levels for sugar beets and sugar cane are as follows:

| State and Region | Support Prices (\$/net ton) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sugar Beets: | |
| Region | |
| 1 | 30.00 |
| 2 | 32.01 |
| 3 | 33.77 |
| 4 | 36.54 |
| 5 | 33.70 |
| 6 | 33.96 |
| 7 | 33.96 |
| 8 | 35.04 |
| Sugarcane: | |
| Florida | 25.78 |
| Louisiana (with core sampler) | 21.98 gross ton |
| (without core sampler) | 23.70 |
| Texas | 19.57 gross ton |
| Hawaii | 22.97 |
| Puerto Rico | 17.94 |

Jane Phillips (202) 447-7601.

#

PRENATAL WIC PARTICIPATION INCREASES INFANT BIRTHWEIGHT, REDUCES MEDICAID COSTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released to Congress a study strongly indicating that participation in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) during pregnancy is associated with reduced Medicaid costs and increased infant birthweight.

“The exciting thing about the results of this study,” said Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, “is that it shows that Medicaid eligible pregnant women who participate in the WIC Program have healthier babies who require less Medicaid assistance after birth than those low-income pregnant women who don’t participate.”

In 1974, Yeutter, as an assistant secretary of agriculture responsible for nutrition programs, cut the ribbon launching the first WIC program facility in Pineville, Ky. “My feeling at the time—and it hasn’t changed—was that WIC would be crucial to the future health and welfare of babies of low-income mothers. The study also reaffirms the success of the WIC program and underscores our emphasis on serving pregnant women and infants as WIC’s top priority,” according to Yeutter.

“Over 90 percent of all pregnant women eligible for WIC are participants in the program, according to the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service which administers WIC. In addition, one out of every three babies born in the United States receive WIC benefits including food supplements and nutritional education for low-income pregnant women designed to improve their nutritional status. Today, WIC serves approximately 4.5 million participants per month compared to 1.9 million 10 years ago, accounting for a 230% increase since 1981,” said Yeutter.

The report studied Medicaid costs, prenatal WIC participation and birth records in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina and Minnesota. Findings indicate increases in birthweight in all five states, especially in preterm infants. Birthweight increases ranged from 51 grams in Minnesota to 117 grams in North Carolina. The study indicated that the probabilities for Medicaid recipients of having a low-birthweight or preterm baby were also lower for WIC participants than for non-participants.

Additional findings indicated substantial reductions in Medicaid costs for mothers and newborn infants from birth to 60 days of age. Cost reductions ranged from \$277 in Minnesota to \$598 in North Carolina with estimated savings in Medicaid costs for newborn infants alone to be \$573 in Texas and \$744 in North Carolina.

“These results underscore President Bush’s commitment to providing quality health services so critical for improving maternal and infant health among the pregnant women and young children in our nation,” Yeutter said. “Under the leadership of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Catherine Bertini our strong efforts to coordinate outreach, referral and care will result in healthier babies and lower costs.”

“The strong and continuing support of the administration for the WIC Program within current budgetary constraints means that more low-income pregnant women can be reassured of having healthier babies in the future. In addition, the WIC program is a sound investment of

taxpayer dollars: we now know that money spent on the WIC program means dollars saved in Medicaid costs,” said Yeutter.

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Dick Thaxton (703) 756-3039

#

NO ADDITIONAL FARM WORKERS NEEDED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole today announced there will be an adequate supply of farm workers to produce and harvest the nation’s fruits, vegetables and certain other perishable commodities for fiscal year 1991.

As a result of this determination, no additional farm workers will be admitted to the United States or acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted for temporary residence under section 210A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The law provides for additional alien farm workers only in the event of a shortage of workers performing seasonal agricultural services.

Section 210A of the INA requires that before the beginning of each fiscal year, starting with fiscal year 1990 and ending with fiscal year 1993, the secretaries determine jointly, according to a specific statutory formula, the number of additional workers (if any) to be admitted to the United States or who should otherwise acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted for temporary residence to meet a shortage of workers to perform seasonal agricultural services.

These people are known as replenishment agricultural workers and the number to be admitted in each fiscal year is known as the “shortage number.” Seasonal agricultural service is field work related to the fruits, vegetables, and other perishable commodities defined in regulations by the secretary of agriculture pursuant to section 210(h) of the INA.

The INA further provides that the attorney general shall allow the admission of a number of replenishment agricultural workers equal to the shortage number, or, if less, a number equal to the annual numerical limitation which is established by a statutory formula contained in section 210A(b) of the INA. The secretaries make the calculation of the annual numerical limitation concurrently with their determination of the shortage number. The annual numerical limitation for fiscal year 1991 is 460,154.

In making their determinations of the shortage number and the annual numerical limitation, the secretaries rely upon surveys conducted by USDA and DOL as well as employer reports which seasonal agricultural service employers are required to provide. Civil money penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation may be imposed upon employers who fail to file required reports, fail to keep adequate records, or who falsify reports.

These reports contain data on the number of days worked in seasonal agricultural services by workers newly legalized under the Special Agricultural Worker program of the INA. They are required to be submitted on a quarterly basis by farm employers who employ certain alien workers.

The law provides emergency procedures for adjustments in the shortage number to accommodate uncertainties associated with agricultural production.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

Al French (202) 447-4737

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YEUTTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESOLVE INCONSISTENCY OVER WETLANDS FOR FARMERS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter said today that federal action has removed a major obstacle for farmers attempting to meet wetlands protection provisions of current law.

Yeutter said a recent ruling by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers eliminated the need for farmers to obtain permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to continue crop production on “prior converted croplands” exempted from the swampbuster provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act.

“We have worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to resolve this inconsistency in federal regulations, which hindered land management and increased the paperwork burden for farmers,” Yeutter said.

Prior converted cropland is defined by USDA’s Soil Conservation Service as croplands “which were both manipulated and cropped before Dec. 23, 1985, to the extent that they no longer exhibit important wetland values.”

The Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency define wetlands as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances (emphasis added) do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions...”

The clarification announced by the Corps Sept. 26 focuses on the concept “normal circumstances” as applied to wetlands converted to agricultural crop production before the effective date (Dec. 23, 1985) of swampbuster provisions of the current Farm Bill. Under the clarification, the Corps views such cropland as meeting only minimal hydrological criteria for wetlands, and thus as not exhibiting important wetland values.

“The Corps’ decision is a good one because it will allow the Corps and SCS to concentrate on protecting existing valuable wetlands while minimizing the paperwork burden on farmers,” Yeutter said.

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#

PROTEIN VS. YIELD PUZZLE IN SOYBEANS

WASHINGTON—The deadlock between high yield and high protein content in soybeans finally may have been broken, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

Joseph W. Burton, a plant geneticist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, is on the verge of breeding a soybean variety with a 3.4-percent increase in protein. It also has excellent yield.

This protein increase, from about 42 percent to almost 46 percent, could mean a possible \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel in extra revenue based on annual prices for soybeans, said Burton, who is located at the ARS Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation Research Unit in Raleigh, N.C.

“Currently, there is no surplus of protein from soybean meal. The market can use all the protein we can produce from soybeans, so there is a real need for this kind of a new variety,” Burton said.

In the past, soybeans that produced high levels of protein also produced lower yields.

“With higher protein, yields always dropped off to the point that there was little if any net gain in total protein,” explained Burton.

It took about 10 years of breeding, but Burton now believes he is close to having the first high-yielding soybean that also reaches the high protein. The results of final testing will determine whether the soybean is released as improved germplasm or as a new variety. "But we'll have something out in a year's time," Burton said.

In conventional breeding programs, the two traits—protein and yield—have acted as if they were coupled or linked genetically, he said.

To decouple the two traits, Burton used a breeding process called restricted index selection, a method employed most often in animal breeding.

Burton began by mating high-yielding soybeans with high protein types. These matings resulted in a genetically varied population of offspring with an average protein content of 45.6 percent.

Families from this population were tested independently for each of the two traits: yielding ability and protein level. These data were then used to calculate the restricted selection index, which statistically related the range of protein level and potential for yield.

The top 20 percent, based on their index values, were intermated to begin another selection cycle. Four selection cycles have been completed.

"The advantage of this system is that it maintains a lot of genetic variation—a lot of diversity—for yielding ability in the offspring and maintains protein at a constant level," Burton said. "Selected offspring are then used in a more conventional pedigree breeding method to develop a pure line or variety as quickly as possible."

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

Issued: Oct. 2, 1990

#

USDA PROPOSES GRAIN INSPECTION FEE INCREASE TO COVER COSTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing to increase inspection fees 13.5 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. These fees were last revised on Jan. 5, 1987..

FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said, “This proposed change is intended to cover, as nearly as practical, the agency’s operating costs including related supervisory and administrative costs. By law, all FGIS inspection and weighing activities are self-funding.”

- Foltz said this proposal does not amend or make changes to the previously proposed rule (in the June 28 Federal Register) to establish a separate fee for railroad track scale test services.

Foltz reported that during 1988 and 1989, FGIS continued to implement cost-saving measures in an effort to provide cost-effective quality service. “In fiscal 1988, revenue covered costs. In fiscal 1989 FGIS experienced a negative margin. In fiscal 1990 losses continue to increase—this negative trend is expected to continue.”

Notice of the proposed increase was published today in the Federal Register. Comments must be submitted on or before Oct. 30. For more information or to submit written comments, contact Paul D. Marsden, Federal Grain Inspection Service, USDA, Room 0628-S, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; telecopy users may send responses to the FGIS automatic telecopier machine at (202) 447-4628.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

#

MEATS AND ALTERNATES—USDA HELPS FIND THE BEST BUYS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Turkey, ground beef, whole chicken, ground chuck, and pork shoulder were found to be the best meat buys in a recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The economy of a cut depends on the amount of cooked lean meat or the number of servings it provides, as well as its price per pound, according to Sue Ann Ritchko, administrator of USDA’s Human Nutrition Information Service. “Relatively high-priced meat cuts with little or no waste may be more economical than low-priced cuts with a great deal of bone, gristle, or fat,” she said.

Costs in this study, which included meat alternates as well as selected types and cuts of meat, poultry, and fish, were estimated using nationwide prices collected in June 1990 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The study also compared the costs of 20 grams of protein—about one-third of the recommended allowance for a man—from selected meats and alternates. Some meat alternates—such as peanut butter and eggs—are as good or better buys than less expensive cuts of meat. However, some processed meat products, such as frankfurters and bologna, were found to cost more as sources of protein than some beef roasts and steaks.

Ritchko said that while a 3-ounce serving of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish provides 20 grams of protein or more, the amount of some alternates and meat products required to provide 20 grams of protein is well over the amount people normally eat in a day. For example, it takes 5 tablespoons of peanut butter, four frankfurters, or 10 slices of bacon to provide 20 grams of protein.

Ritchko said consumers can use the following tables to obtain comparable costs for meats and alternates in their supermarkets by multiplying the part of the market unit figure by the local price per unit.

Estimated Cost of Meats and Alternates

| Food | Retail price per pound* (dollars) | Part of pound for 3 ounces of cooked lean | Cost of 3 ounces of cooked lean (dollars) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Turkey, ready-to-cook | 1.00 | 0.41 | 0.41 |
| Ground beef, regular | 1.59 | 0.29 | 0.46 |
| Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook | 0.93 | 0.55 | 0.51 |
| Ground chuck | 1.97 | 0.28 | 0.55 |
| Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in | 1.28 | 0.46 | 0.59 |
| Ham, canned | 2.84 | 0.25 | 0.71 |
| Round roast of beef, bone out | 2.92 | 0.27 | 0.79 |
| Chicken breasts, bone in | 2.09 | 0.40 | 0.84 |
| Chuck roast of beef, bone in | 2.07 | 0.44 | 0.91 |
| Round beefsteak, bone out | 3.34 | 0.33 | 1.10 |
| Sirloin beefsteak, bone in | 3.78 | 0.31 | 1.17 |
| Pork chops, center cut, bone in | 3.44 | 0.42 | 1.44 |
| Rib roast of beef, bone in | 4.54 | 0.41 | 1.86 |
| T-bone beefsteak, bone in | 5.01 | 0.42 | 2.10 |

Cost of 20 grams of protein from specified meats and meat alternates at June 1990 prices:

| Food | Market unit | Price per market unit* (dollars) | Part of market unit to give 20 grams of protein** | Cost of 20 grams of protein (dollars) |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Eggs, large | doz | 0.93 | 0.28 | 0.26 |
| Turkey, ready-to-cook | lb | 1.00 | 0.33 | 0.33 |
| Peanut butter | 18 oz | 2.09 | 0.16 | 0.33 |
| Tuna, canned | 6.5 oz | 0.84 | 0.41 | 0.34 |
| Bread, white, enriched*** | lb | 0.69 | 0.50 | 0.34 |
| Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook | lb | 0.93 | 0.42 | 0.39 |
| Ground beef, regular | lb | 1.59 | 0.27 | 0.40 |
| Pork shoulder, smoked, bone in | lb | 1.28 | 0.32 | 0.41 |
| Milk, whole, fluid**** | 1/2 gal | 1.40 | 0.31 | 0.43 |
| Ground chuck | lb | 1.97 | 0.25 | 0.49 |
| Chicken breasts, bone in | lb | 2.09 | 0.27 | 0.56 |
| Chuck roast of beef, bone in | lb | 2.07 | 0.29 | 0.60 |
| Round roast of beef, bone out | lb | 2.92 | 0.22 | 0.64 |
| Round beefsteak, bone out | lb | 3.34 | 0.20 | 0.67 |
| Ham, canned | lb | 2.84 | 0.26 | 0.74 |
| Sirloin beefsteak, bone in | lb | 3.78 | 0.23 | 0.87 |
| Frankfurters, all meat | lb | 2.31 | 0.39 | 0.90 |
| Bologna | lb | 2.54 | 0.38 | 0.97 |
| Pork chops, center cut, bone in | lb | 3.44 | 0.32 | 1.10 |
| Bacon, sliced | lb | 2.15 | 0.52 | 1.12 |
| Pork sausage, bulk | lb | 2.41 | 0.47 | 1.13 |
| Rib roast of beef, bone in | lb | 4.54 | 0.30 | 1.36 |
| T-bone beefsteak, bone in | lb | 5.01 | 0.32 | 1.60 |

* U.S. average retail price of food item estimated using information provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

** About one-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man. Assumes that all meat is eaten.

*** Bread and other grain products, such as pasta and rice, frequently are used with a small amount of meat, poultry, fish, or cheese as main dishes in economy meals. In this way, the high-quality protein in meat and cheese enhances the lower quality of protein in cereal products.

**** Although milk is not used to replace meat in meals, it is an economical source of good-quality protein. Nationwide prices for cheese were not available.

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#

USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR AUGUST

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for August 1990:

Cost of food at home for a week in August 1990

| | -----Food plans----- | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| | (In Dollars) | | | |
| | Thrifty | Low-cost | Moderate cost | Liberal |
| Families: | | | | |
| Family of 2 (20-50 years) | 47.70 | 60.00 | 73.90 | 91.50 |
| Family of 2 (51 years and over) | 45.30 | 57.60 | 70.80 | 84.70 |
| Family of 4 with preschool children | 69.70 | 86.50 | 105.60 | 129.40 |
| Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren | 79.70 | 101.70 | 127.00 | 152.70 |
| Individuals in four-person families: | | | | |
| Children: | | | | |
| 1-2 years | 12.70 | 15.30 | 17.80 | 21.50 |
| 3-5 years | 13.60 | 16.70 | 20.60 | 24.70 |
| 6-8 years | 16.60 | 22.10 | 27.60 | 32.20 |
| 9-11 years | 19.70 | 25.10 | 32.20 | 37.30 |

Females:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 12-19 years | 20.70 | 24.60 | 29.80 | 35.90 |
| 20-50 years | 20.60 | 25.50 | 30.90 | 39.40 |
| 51 and over | 20.40 | 24.80 | 30.50 | 36.40 |

Males:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 12-14 years | 20.50 | 28.40 | 35.40 | 41.60 |
| 15-19 years | 21.40 | 29.40 | 36.50 | 42.30 |
| 20-50 years | 22.80 | 29.00 | 36.30 | 43.80 |
| 51 and over | 20.80 | 27.60 | 33.90 | 40.60 |

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Sue Ann Ritchko, administrator of HNIS, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods, and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Ritchko said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.”

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” she said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out five days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the “individual” figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

- For a one-person family, add 20 percent.
- For a two-person family, add 10 percent.
- For a three-person family, add 5 percent.
- For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.
- For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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#

USDA PROTECTS 13 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 13 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants, including alfalfa, colonial bentgrass, corn, hardinggrass, pea, perennial ryegrass and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform, and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Crockett variety of alfalfa, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the Alfagraze variety of alfalfa, developed by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Athens, Ga.;
- the Grasslands Egmont variety of colonial bentgrass, developed by the Grasslands Division, New Zealand Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Zealand;
- the 6M502 and IBB14 varieties of corn, developed by DeKalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;
- the WIL500 variety of corn, developed by Wilson Hybrids Inc., Harlan, Iowa;

- the Au Oasis variety of hardinggrass, developed by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala.;
- the Quest variety of pea, developed by the Rogers Brothers Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- the Blazer II variety of perennial ryegrass, developed by Pickseed West Inc., Tangent, Ore.;
- the S36-36 variety of soybean, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the 9402 variety of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Des Moines, Iowa;
- the Deltapine 726 variety of soybean, developed by the Delta & Pine Land Co., Scott, Miss.; and
- the K87 variety of soybean, developed by King Agro Inc., Blissfield, Mich.

The certificate of protection for the Grasslands Egmont colonial bentgrass variety is being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by USDA's AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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#

CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES DECLARED FREE FROM ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has officially declared that an infestation of the Oriental fruit fly in Los Angeles County, Calif., has been eradicated, leaving the entire continental United States free of the pest. A long-established infestation of the fly in Hawaii, however, remains.

Oriental fruit flies were detected in the West Covina area of Los Angeles County, and a quarantine was imposed on Aug. 15, 1989, said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He said the area under quarantine later included four more portions of the county. One section, in the Elysian Park area, was released from the quarantine in September.

“We follow a policy of eradicating the Oriental fruit fly as soon as we discover an infestation,” Glosser said. “If the Oriental fruit fly were permitted to become established in the United States, serious economic losses would result, especially in citrus fruit, nuts, vegetables and berries.”

Glosser said that quarantines and eradication efforts continue in part of Los Angeles County for two related exotic pests, the Mediterranean fruit fly and the Mexican fruit fly. Restrictions on the movement of fruits and vegetables remain in effect in most of the area of the old Oriental fruit fly quarantine until these other two pests also are eliminated.

An interim rule, effective Sept. 28, officially lifted the quarantine; the rule will be published in the Oct. 3 Federal Register.

Comments on the interim rule will be accepted if they are received on or before Dec. 3. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 90-193 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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#

TINY WASP CASTING A WIDER NET FOR THE TARNISHED PLANT BUG

WASHINGTON—A tiny pest-killing wasp from Europe is becoming a hungry traveller in eastern alfalfa, and could be going west to guard cotton and strawberries, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

“The wasp kills tarnished plant bugs that live in alfalfa fields but fly, when the hay is cut, to strawberry fields, apple and peach orchards and vegetables such as green beans,” said entomologist William H. Day of the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

The plant bug sucks the sap from flowers and very young fruits. But this doesn’t happen when the one-eighth-inch-long female *Peristenus digoneutis* wasp attacks an immature plant bug nymph. “Within a few

days after she stings one and lays an egg in it, a wasp larva hatches and begins eating the nymph, killing it within a week,” Day said.

The wasps parasitized 30 to 90 percent of the bugs in alfalfa fields Day sampled this year in Warren and Sussex counties in north New Jersey. They also have crossed the border into Orange County, N.Y.—a 35-mile migration from New Jersey sites where he released wasps from 1979 to 1983.

“Thirty five miles may not seem much, but it’s encouraging. Our experience has shown that biocontrol insects may take several years to start making inroads against a pest,” said Day at the Beneficial Insects Introduction Research Laboratory in Newark, Del.

The wasp’s progress in the mid-Atlantic area, he said, could attract interest in states such as Mississippi, where tarnished plant bugs attack cotton. And in the West, one of the bug’s relatives—the lygus bug—reduces yields and raises production costs of strawberries, cotton and alfalfa grown for its seed.

In California, Day said, “the wasp might be worth looking at as an alternative to chemical insecticides or to huge, field-going ‘vacuum cleaners’ used to control lygus bugs on strawberries.”

A commercial producer of beneficial insects, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries Inc. of Ventura, Calif., has asked Day for a starter colony of *Peristenus* wasps. “We need this parasite very badly in California,” said Everett J. Dietrick, president. “The lygus is one of the state’s six worst pests, and we don’t have a good parasite that attacks it in the nymph stage.”

Day said he has provided wasps to Canadian scientists who want to see if the insect can establish itself in Manitoba and Saskatchewan where relatives of the tarnished plant bug pester alfalfa. In the east, researchers from the University of Massachusetts plan studies to check whether it can protect strawberries grown without insecticide.

The wasp, which doesn’t sting animals or people, generally produces two generations a year. Wasps that don’t mature this summer spend winter in cocoons in the soil, according to Day.

Besides tracking the impact on tarnished plant bug populations in New Jersey and New York, he has released the wasps in farm areas in southern New Jersey and plans to release them in Delaware next summer.

The Newark, Del., laboratory serves as the agency’s “Ellis Island” for most beneficial insects imported from ARS locations overseas. Newark scientists test their biocontrol mettle or ship them to other ARS locations and universities after first ensuring they carry no stowaways—such as

plant pests—and won't gobble other good insects or crop plants. The lab receives and distributes hundreds of thousands of beneficial insects every year, said Day.

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Issued: Oct. 3, 1990

#

USDA REVISES GRADE STANDARDS FOR BURLEY TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is revising its grade standards for burley tobacco by adding two grades to account for “green,” or green-hued, immature tobacco in one group of burley tobacco, effective Nov. 5.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said burley tobacco groupings reflect the part of the tobacco plant from which leaf is pulled. Some groupings have grading standards to account for green leaf; but the mixed, or “M,” group, which incorporates tobacco taken from all parts of the plant, lack standards to account for green leaf, Haley said.

This change will add grades in the only remaining group in the burley standards that does not provide a means of describing green tobacco.

“In a period of high demand for tobacco, such as we have today, interest in “M” tobacco with or without green leaf increases. The changes will permit graders to provide a more accurate picture of this tobacco arriving at the marketplace,” Haley said.

The revision results from AMS's continuing review of the suitability of its grades to the circumstances of the market, Haley said.

Details of the changes will appear as a final rule in the Oct. 4 Federal Register. Copies are available from the director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 502 Annex, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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#

NET INCOME OF FARMER COOPERATIVES NEAR RECORD HIGH IN 1989

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—For 1989, U.S. farmer cooperatives reported the second highest net income and third highest sales in history, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Cooperative Service.

Combined business volume for cooperatives in 1989 was \$70.4 billion, or 6.0 percent above \$66.4 billion in 1988. The volume was exceeded only by the record \$73.0 billion in 1984 and \$71.5 billion in 1981.

Net income less losses was nearly \$1.9 billion, 12.3 percent better than \$1.7 billion in 1988. Net income was highest at \$1.94 billion in 1980. Increased earnings of farm-supply cooperatives were a major contributing factor to the near-record income, even though the number of cooperatives reporting losses rose from 364 to 574. However, the amount of losses decreased from \$164.7 million to \$82.4 million.

Randall E. Torgerson, ACS administrator, attributed the higher business volume primarily to increased production of grains and oil-bearing crops, increased prices for poultry, and a combination of increased prices and sales of fruits and vegetables, fertilizer, and farm chemicals. Production of feed grains and soybeans were up significantly in 1989 compared to low production in 1988 because of the drought.

Total cooperative business volume includes marketing (the value of products sold), farm supplies (sales of fertilizer, chemicals, fuels, feed, and other supplies to members and patrons), and receipts from services such as trucking, storage, ginning, and artificial insemination.

The number of cooperatives and cooperative memberships continued a long downward trend.

Torgerson said the drop in number of cooperatives—from 4,937 to 4,799—was the result of cooperatives reorganizing (mergers, consolidations, acquisitions) and going out of business.

Memberships totaled 4.14 million, down 1.4 percent from the previous year. The number of memberships is larger than the number of farms because many farmers belong to more than one cooperative.

Net income of marketing cooperatives decreased 16.2 percent. Among marketing cooperatives, the largest percentage decreases in net income from 1988 to 1989 were by rice and grain cooperatives. Losses and lower storage income were contributing factors. Farm supply cooperatives increased net income 92.0 percent.

Combined assets of farmer cooperatives totaled \$29.6 billion, about the same as the total combined assets in 1988. Total liabilities of \$16.3 billion were down slightly or 0.8 percent. Net worth of \$13.3 billion was up nearly 4 percent from the \$12.8 billion in 1988.

Marketing volume was \$52.1 billion, up 6.2 percent. Dairy was the leading farm product with sales of \$18.1 billion. This represents 34.8 percent of cooperative marketings. Grain and oilseeds sales increased 11.8 percent to \$14.1 billion—an increase of nearly \$1.5 billion. The increase in sales was related to higher production and higher prices of feed grains and oilseeds in 1989.

Fruit and vegetable and grain and oilseed cooperatives showed the largest percentage increases in business volume. The largest decreases were in sugar and other products marketed.

Farm supply volume of \$16.4 billion was up 6.0 percent. Increased prices for feed and fertilizer and increased use of fertilizer were major factors. Fertilizer sales were up 14.2 percent. Sales of miscellaneous supplies increased 10.6 percent.

Table 1—COOPERATIVE BUSINESS VOLUME, 1988 AND 1989¹

| Commodity or function | Business volume ² | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| | 1988 | 1989 |
| | <i>(millions of dollars)</i> | |
| Products marketed: | | |
| Cotton | 1,876 | 1,990 |
| Dairy | 17,793 | 18,121 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 6,604 | 7,814 |
| Grain and oilseeds ³ | 12,628 | 14,117 |
| Livestock and poultry | 4,366 | 4,573 |
| Nuts | 794 | 834 |
| Rice | 788 | 765 |
| Sugar | 1,871 | 1,777 |
| Other products ⁴ | 2,346 | 2,142 |
| Total | 49,067 | 52,131 |

Supplies purchased:

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Farm chemicals | 1,339 | 1,434 |
| Feed | 3,807 | 3,833 |
| Fertilizer | 2,977 | 3,400 |
| Petroleum | 4,416 | 4,553 |
| Seed | 540 | 553 |
| Building materials, containers, farm machinery and equipment, and meats and groceries | 933 | 1,016 |
| Other supplies | 1,412 | 1,562 |
| Total farm supplies | 15,424 | 16,350 |
| Selected services: Trucking, ginning, storage, artificial insemination, and other | 1,939 | 1,967 |
| TOTAL | 66,430 | 70,448 |

¹Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

²Volume includes value of products associated with cooperatives that operate on a commission basis and bargain for members' products. Excludes intercooperative business.

³Excludes cottonseed.

⁴Includes dry edible beans and peas, tobacco, wool, and other miscellaneous products.

Table 2—FARMER COOPERATIVES’ NET INCOME, 1988 AND 1989¹

| Cooperative type | Total net income ² | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | 1988 | 1989 |
| <i>(millions of dollars)</i> | | |
| Marketing: | | |
| Cotton ³ | 63.1 | 62.5 |
| Dairy | 269.6 | 268.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 179.7 | 168.1 |
| Grain and oilseeds | 508.8 | 307.9 |
| Livestock and poultry | 53.1 | 92.9 |
| Rice | 5.2 | 1.3 |
| Sugar | 19.0 | 19.3 |
| Other products ⁴ | 17.0 | 14.2 |
| Total | 1,115.5 | 935.0 |
| Farm supply | 434.1 | 833.6 |
| Selected service | 130.1 | 117.0 |
| TOTAL | 1,679.7 | 1,885.5 |

¹Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

²Net income less losses.

³Previously, net income of cotton ginning cooperatives were included. This is now included with selected service cooperatives.

⁴Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

Table 3—FARMER COOPERATIVE NUMBERS AND MEMBERSHIPS, 1989¹

| Cooperative type | Cooperatives ² | Memberships |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | <i>Number</i> | |
| Marketing: | | |
| Cotton ³ | 20 | 36,063 |
| Dairy | 259 | 136,115 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 298 | 53,185 |
| Grain and oilseeds | 1,400 | 900,770 |
| Livestock and poultry | 258 | 328,087 |
| Rice | 48 | 19,840 |
| Sugar | 45 | 10,840 |
| Other products ⁴ | 222 | 370,847 |
| Total | 2,550 | 1,855,747 |
| Farm supply | 1,803 | 2,037,845 |
| Selected service | 446 | 242,608 |
| TOTAL | 4,799 | 4,136,200 |

¹Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

²Many cooperatives are multiproduct and multifunctional in operations and are classified according to predominant commodity or function indicated by business volume.

³Cooperative cotton gins included with selected service cooperatives.

⁴Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

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